

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Feb. 2013



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



I want to thank all of you who attended the Mid-Winter Conference. I also want to thank all the committee chairmen for their reports and the units who sent in reports. Please continue to keep up with what you do and report all that you have done in the year end reports. Please send them to the chairman by the date due so they can prepare their reports. This year is

quickly coming to a close, and we want the chairmen to be able to send very good reports to National. We know we do a lot during the year, so let's show the rest of the departments that Mississippi has been working for the veterans this year.

The area conferences will be coming up soon. Please make sure that each unit sends a representative to their respective conference. District Presidents, please contact your units and remind them of the date of their conference. It is important that we have representatives from the units, because that is when the district officers are elected.

Again I want to thank all the units for the reports sent in and all the work you have done so far this year for our veterans. They are the reason for us doing what we do. When you come in contact with a veteran or active service man or woman, please thank them for their service. If not for them just imagine what this country would be like and the freedoms we would not have.

For God and Country,
Sarah Edwards



CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

- District 6 Workshop Part II, March 2, Vicksburg
- District 2 and 3 Workshop March 9, Greenwood
- Northern Area Conference April 13, TBA
- Central Area Conference April 20, Vicksburg
- Southern Area Conference May 11, Laurel
- Magnolia Girls State June 2-7, USM
- State Convention July 11-14, Vicksburg

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Winging our way for ALA....

Home from a great Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez....good information, fun Mardi Gras Ball, and as always, good times with good friends. The weather and illness kept some of you home, but looking forward to seeing you at your area Spring Conference.

We had hoped more reports would have been sent in, but

even fewer than usual were sent. I hope the PODs weren't to blame. They are a little confusing for some of us; just remember it is not mandatory you use them. We want to hear what you are doing, so please send in the year-end reports, which are due to the Department Chairmen May 1.

Membership Chairman Joyce Porter and the Department need your help. If you have friends or family, that has not sent in their dues, encourage

them to do so ASAP. And if you don't have your Ladybug pin, now is the time to get that new senior member.

If you need me for anything, feel free to contact me and I will do what I can to help or answer your questions.

Remember our veterans, our men and women serving in the military and their families. May they all be safely home soon.

For God and Country,
Rose Blanchard

2012-2013
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

SARAH EDWARDS, PRESIDENT
ROSE BLANCHARD, 1ST V. P.
MARY BARRETT, 2ND V. P.
MERITA GUINN, HISTORIAN
PATRICIA WHITNEY, CHAPLAIN
MARY RIED, NEC
MARY LYLES, ALT. NEC
NANCY SANDERS, SECRETARY/
TREASURER

MAGNOLIA NEWS IS A
PUBLICATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MISSALA.COM

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



We had several VA&R visitors at the Mid-Winter Conference. Mr. Randy Reeves, Director of the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board, addressed services provided by the Board, including Gov. Phil Bryant's January 13 declaration of the year 2013 as the "Year to Hire Mississippi Heroes." Mr. Joe Battle, Director of the Jackson VA Medical Center, Ms. Deborah Thomas, Volunteer Services Director at the Jackson VA Medical Center, and Chief Business Officer and Medical Administrator of the Biloxi VA Medical Center Mr. Fred Nichols

also spoke on happenings at each state VA facilities and the new Women's center coming soon at the Jackson VA.

Ms. Thomas asked for donations to help decorate the premises so that it would look nice for our lady veterans and warriors. As you can see our VA facilities were well represented. They all expressed how much the Mississippi Auxiliary had helped in so many different ways to let our Veterans know they are truly appreciated.

It is hard to believe that half of the year is already behind us. We have so many things planned already for the next half, and I hope all of you are making plans to catch the Lady Bug Fever and get started.

I want to visit all the VA facilities that I can, and if you are planning an event at any facility, please let me know.

Ladies, this is our time to shine. Please start your reports now for year end in July. I hear so many of you talking about the things your Unit has done, and it does not get put into the reports. It is important to our Veterans that you report your Volunteer time. Please try to keep warm!

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett, 2nd Vice

FOR THE RECORD - DEPT. HISTORIAN



I hope everyone who attend the 2013 Mid-Winter Conference enjoyed our time together! I hope all Unit Historians and Scrapbook Chairmen are printing out all the photos and memories—we had a lot to remember!

Spring conferences will be here before

you know it, so we have more memories to make and preserve. Get ready as we have a lot more to do before State Convention in July!

Don't forget, the National President will be in Mississippi in early April. Planning has begun and more information will come to you all in the next newsletter.

Remember, please send your photos, newspaper clippings, and other items for Department President Sarah's scrapbook to Audrey Porter at 250 Henry Lane, Caledonia, MS 39740.

For God and Country,

Merita Guinn, Dept. Historian

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—DEPT. CHAPLAIN



The following is from Sat. Luke's Gospel Chapter 21 Verse 25: "And there are also other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

There are many things that we read about Jesus's life such as making a blind man see and raising the dead and curing the sick. But I often wonder what else he did in his short life. We

know from the Gospels many of the things Jesus did but we must remember that the Gospels have probably left out many of the other "miracles."

I am sure that the Bible would be a much bigger book if we knew all the things that Jesus did. But there is enough in what we read to make us sure that he was the Son of God and that his teachings are for all of us to follow this day and this time and forever. To my knowledge, no other book has ever come close to being as great as it is and what a wonderful place this world would be if we were to follow His teachings.

So for now "Peace and God's Blessings."

I have over the past month sent one sympathy card and one get well card. I have visited the VA Hospital and the Mississippi State Nursing Home where we played Bingo with the residents and gave out some gifts to the members.

For God and Country,

*Patricia Whitney
Dept. Chaplain*

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

MEMBERSHIP

Just returned from great Mid-Winter Conference, with seven of the nine district presidents attending. At the beginning of the conference, membership was at 60%, after turn in of membership, we are at 65%. Sixth District President Eva Ford received a gift of a ladybug key chain for having the highest membership turn in of 203 members. The district presidents and other members of the Auxiliary helped act out a poem I read on the value of one member. This poem and other materials are available on the national web site, they are very helpful with recruiting and retaining members. (www.alaforveterans.org)

Our 2nd Milestone is Valentine's Day, and we need 5% to reach our goal. Presidents and membership chairman, need to call your members and get them to renew their membership. We always want new members but we need to

keep the ones we have. Membership is coming in much slower than last year, i don't know if it is the dues increase or the lack of interest. We need to get motivated and get our membership in. The more members we can get the more help we will have to work our programs. You can send in your Recruit 1 into National until May to receive an Angel pin from National President Peggy Thomas. I will be giving out ladybug pins at all the Spring Conferences and Leadership Workshops. So make sure you Recruit One new senior member, it will help you reach your unit goal. If you need any help you can call your district president or me, we will do all we can to help you with you units membership. Remember 70% by Valentines Day, February 14th. Let's make Mississippi #1, we still have time to do it.

Joyce Porter, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Finance Committee!



Congratulations to President Sarah Edwards and the Convention Chair Nancy Sanders on a successful and fun-packed Mid-Winter Conference 2013. The business was handled, and I, for one, had a wonderful time at the Mardi Gras Ball.

Speaking of handling business, we need to talk about Unit Assessments. THANK YOU to the 60+ Units who have submitted prior to publication of this article, however, there are still 21 Units that have not remitted the assessment amounts. This is fully one quarter of our Department's Units. Can you imagine trying to keep your personal budget in line if you were "missing" a quarter of your expected income?

These assessments are necessary to keeping our budget balanced and to ensuring our Treasurers are bonded, our Veterans have cheer at Christmas, our Education scholarships have funding, and our hospitals are supported. These assessments are mandatory for a reason, they supply necessary funding to protect our Units and keep important programs operating.

Please, if your Unit has not yet submitted its share of the annual assessments, do so today. If you are unaware of how much is due, please call Nancy Sanders at the Department office and she will be more than happy to tell you.

For God and Country,

Amanda Havlicek, Chairman

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT—THE ANCHOR CLUB

This year, Department President Sarah Edwards has chosen The Anchor Club as her special project. Now, more than ever as membership as decreased and our economy is weaker, our Department needs extra support to meet financial obligations and to better serve our veterans and their families.

Your commitment, by contributing to this department development fund, will greatly help the Auxiliary to sustain its operations and be more efficient in serving our units. The Anchor Club fund is very important to our annual operating budget this year, and your membership will help insure the security of our beloved Auxiliary in Mississippi.

Membership in THE ANCHOR CLUB is open to all individuals, Units, and Posts by donating \$50 or more. **Charter members**, please send in your dues to continue your membership and your support to the department.

Checks should be sent to the Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, P. O. Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39212 and annotated as *Anchor Club 2013*.

We thank you for your continue support for this project.

Janice Crosby, Anchor Club Chairman

Mary Smith-Ried, Special Project Chairman

Department Finance Committee

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

LEADERSHIP



To all of you who have taken the ALA Correspondence Course to date, I'M JUST SO DARN PROUD OF YOU!!

I continue to receive tests daily and am looking forward to receiving many more.

Our next Leadership Workshop will take us back to Vicksburg for Part II for District 6 on March 2.

We'll then travel to Greenwood on March 9 to present a workshop for Districts 2 and 3.

Still hoping to set up dates for Districts 4, 5, 7 and 8. Please, District Presidents, let me hear from you.

Continue to take the test—it will do you good, trust me! Haven't had any-one fail yet!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

S. O. S. !!

The Dept. of Mississippi has proudly donated popcorn supplies and hard candy to the Chaplains at Camp Shelby for our troops.

They use these supplies to give a little comfort to the troops who are in-processing or out-processing from active duty.

Also, from time to time, the Red Cross staff at Camp Shelby will call us to assist a soldier who is having difficulties. This past month, the Department paid the electric bill for a soldier who was in great need.

Our funds are getting VERY low, and we need your help to continue this valuable service.

Please ask your unit to donate and send a contribution to the Dept. Office.

Be sure to indicate on your check "Camp Shelby Project" for proper credit.

**MANY THANKS TO JACKSON UNIT 112
FOR YOUR \$100 DONATION AND
BRANDON UNIT 68 FOR
YOUR \$75 DONATION
AT MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE!**



SOUTHERN DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ENDORSEMENT

I want to thank the Department of Mississippi for your endorsement as a candidate for the 2013-2014 Southern Division National Vice President while at Mid-Winter Conference. It is an honor for me to be entrusted with this great honor to serve our wonderful organization in this capacity. I pledge to serve each of the 14 states that make up the Southern Division in such a way as to make you all proud! My heart and soul lies within the Department of Mississippi, always.

Thanks again for your vote of confidence.

Angela Kilcrease

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Our Mid-Winter Conference has ended. The meeting of the minds took care of business with Committee Chairmen, Department and District Officers giving reports, useful ideas were presented, invented or discussed and we returned home rejuvenated with visits from old friends. We have now officially started our downhill climb towards the end of our ALA year. It will not be long until year end reports will be due and the July Convention in Vicksburg will be upon us. We still have much to do and so little time.

Saint Basil said, "A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." February is known as the love month (Happy Valentine's Day). With love in our hearts, we can accomplish great things and use various opportunities to keep the spirit of Christmas alive within us all year long. All of us need a boost to get our motors running and our mental state of mind in the right gear. Attitude is a determining factor in all that we do and a major part of how others receive our efforts. If we go forward with the right approach, others will be inspired and encouraged as we plant a seed to witness to their needs.

Back in December, Angela wrote on our ALA Historians Facebook group: "After watching an inspiring story about a movement started by NBC's Ann Curry about 26 acts of kindness in memory of those killed in Sandy Hook, I decided to include in the National History a list of 26 Acts of Kindness...do you have any that you can include...Thanks!" This year the Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Week is February 11-17, 2013, however, acts of kindness should not be limited to this specific week in time. It should be a way of life that is practiced all year long. In doing a little research, this site <http://www.randomactsofkindness.org> was discovered. It is filled with numerous suggestions and ideas that can be carried into personal, professional or volunteer lifestyles. Many concepts can be applied to committee programs as we give back to the communities we love so much. Let Angela know all the details of who, what, when, where and how from you Unit.

As we put the above suggested concepts into practice, do not forget that the National Salute to Veteran Patients is observed on February 10-16, 2013. Many Veterans are hospitalized with physical injuries that could require extended recuperation periods while some have mental scars that cannot be seen and may never heal. Our senior Veterans are residents of nursing or retirement homes or confined by the walls of their homes, feeling alone and forgotten. Although many of us may not be a qualified health care professional to address their issues, we are able to extend "acts of kindness" to make a difference and turn situations around. Step out of your comfort zone and be the person God has called you to be in love, understanding and compassion by offering helping hands that will make a difference in your life and in those that we give to.

"Holidays to Focus Efforts" in February are: • 2/11-17 Random Acts of Kindness Week • 2/10-16 National Salute to Veteran Patients • 2/14 Valentine's Day • 2/18 President's Day

For God and Country,

Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Still taking articles for the Department Press Book and know there are a lot more published newspaper articles out there!

Please send me your articles as they happen!

God Bless,

Mary Jane Ervin, Chairman



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Thank you to those of you who attended the 2013 Mid-Winter Conference. President Sarah did a great job, and I hope we all learned something—and had a little fun, too!

Please keep working your Children and Youth program in the months to come. I want much better reports by May 1, okay?

For God and Country,

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

War Memorial Building
P. O. Box 1382
Jackson, MS 39212

Phone: 601.353.3681
E-mail: ALAMSHQ@att.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

If you did not attend Mid-Winter Conference, you really missed a grand time. President Sarah did a fantastic job. I am very proud of her. Now, back to the grindstone. Thanks for the membership you turned in; however, membership is still sluggish. We don't have that much time left to reach our goals. We haven't made one yet! The second goal is Valentine's Day. It's time to get busy for 2013 membership! No fooling around, now! Let's get it done and over with!

Enclosed in this newsletter are raffle tickets for the Department Support Fund. The laptop has been generously donated by Nick and Melissa Seward. We have as many as you can sell. We are hoping you can purchase or sell these tickets very quickly and will order more. Just let me know what you need. You may send the ticket stubs and raffle money directly to the Department. Let's get on board and help President Sarah reach her DSF goal and, in the end, someone will own a great laptop!.

In the meantime, if you need assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at the Department Headquarters (601-353-3681).

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders

EDUCATION If you were not at our Mid-Winter Conference, you missed a good one. I gave my report on what units have been doing for the Education program so far this year. I was a little disappointed that only 8 out of 81 units actually sent me a report from their unit. I know that everyone is promoting education, whether it is providing supplies to schools, or having a Teacher Appreciation Day, or providing a scholarship, or asking a veteran to speak to students in the classroom; we just don't report it like we should. Let's toot our own horn!

One thing I reminded units about was the 3 National scholarships that are offered. The deadline is March 1, 2013, so if you have applicants, please mark that date on your calendar. The scholarships are:

- National President's Children of Warriors Scholarship. Applicants have a chance to be awarded a \$3500 scholarship, a \$3000 scholarship or a \$2500 scholarship.
- Non-Traditional Scholarship. One \$2,000 scholarship is awarded in the Southern division. Applicant must be a member of The Legion, the Auxiliary, or the Sons.
- Spirit of Youth Scholarship. One \$5000 scholarship is awarded to a Junior member in the Southern division. The scholarship is distributed \$1,250 per year for four years.

Applications with instructions and criteria for all of these scholarships can be found on the National Website at ALAforVeterans.org under the Education program.

More News - The "Need A Lift" handbook and CD provided by The American Legion for over 62 years has been discontinued. The American Legion made the decision to discontinue the "Need A Lift" handbook and CD, which served as a comprehensive financial aid, because it is now possible for individuals to easily search the Internet on their own for available scholarships and college information.

I will be at National headquarters in Indianapolis January 25-27th for a Long Range Strategic Planning Committee meeting. I hope to bring back some more valuable information to share with you. It is an honor to represent Mississippi on the National level.

Please continue your good work on the Education program. Call or email me if I can be of any assistance. kdungan@hughes.net or 601-643-2383.

Kathy Dungan, Chairman

